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DOCUMENTS SECTION

Guide to the Records of Special Commissions in the Pennsylvania State Archives

Compiled by Henry E. Bown
Edited by Roland M. Baumann

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
Harrisburg, 1979

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PREFACE

Subject guides are published by the Bureau of Archives and History as part of its records description program. These finding aids describe records dealing with some special subject and found in several different record groups or manuscript groups. Their form and style are not fixed but vary according to the subject and type of the records to which they relate. Their main purpose is to analyze records and manuscripts on a much narrower subject and/or topic area than is characteristic of more general guides. Although this is the first subject guide to appear, it is hoped that in building an efficient finding aid system, these guides will help to promote greater access to the holdings in aggregate of the State archival agency.

In addition to subject guides, the Pennsylvania State Archives produces institutional publications that give an overall picture of historical materials in its custody. A new preliminary *Guide to the Record Groups in the Pennsylvania State Archives* will be issued in 1980. A *Guide to the Manuscript Groups in the Pennsylvania State Archives* was published in 1976. The catalogue of Maps, principally Manuscript Group 11, is described in the *Descriptive List of the Map Collection in the Pennsylvania State Archives*. It was published in 1976. The depth and extent of the repository's holdings are also fully exhibited in seven specialized finding guides for micropublications and in the more than three hundred in-house box inventories of Record Groups and Manuscript Groups.

Roland M. Baumann, *Chief*
Division of Archives & Manuscripts

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid provides a descriptive picture of the contents and origins of the records of special commissions in the Division of Archives and Manuscripts (Pennsylvania State Archives), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This body of records, which offers diverse and wide-ranging research opportunities, has been generally overlooked by potential researchers. The recent accessions of records of the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, 1968-1977, and the records of the Abortion Law Commission, 1972, constitute valuable additions to the records of special commissions and will serve to increase the use of the records under this subject category.

For nearly 130 years the State has formed special commissions to erect monuments, establish expositions, to serve as investigatory bodies, and to promote the interests of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a variety of ways. Prior to the mid-nineteenth century special commissions established by State government were few; but, following the Civil War and the emergence of modern industrial America, these commissions proliferated as the nation witnessed the dedication of Civil War battlefield monuments and/or the sponsorship of national and regional trade and industrial expositions. Perhaps the appearance of commemorative and exposition commissions at this time symbolized a growing response to the needs of a more active citizenry by democratic institutions.

Special commissions have been created by acts of the State General Assembly to function as independent administrative bodies under the governor's jurisdiction, or as dependent agencies within a major department. Their life span has been temporary, being determined by the amount of time necessary to complete the purpose for which they were formed. The typical special commission has generally been composed of private citizens appointed by the governor, five members from both House and Senate, the speaker of the House, the president pro tempore of the Senate, and certain heads of State agencies, depending on the stated purpose of the commission. Special commissions, similar to regular independent administrative commissions, have met upon the call of their chairmen or presidents. They have had authority to prescribe rules and regulations, consistent with law, for the government of the commission, the conduct of their employes, the performance of the commission's business, and for the custody, use and preservation of documents, books and papers of the commission. Some special commissions have been empowered to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of books

and papers pertinent to any hearings before the commission. Finally, special commissions have submitted written reports on their activities and often offered recommendations to the governor upon the completion of their public service.

More than one hundred special commissions have been established in Pennsylvania. Of these, the records of thirty-seven commissions are deposited in the State Archives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The records of thirty-five special commissions are arranged in the State Archives as independent administrative commissions under Record Group 25: Records of Special Commissions, 1858-1972. Two special commissions have also been established as dependent commissions within a parent agency; accordingly, their records in the State Archives have been placed with the records of the office or administrative entity that created or received the records, and are maintained as they were transferred. Records of the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, 1968-1977, are included in Record Group 31, Records of the Department of Commerce, and the Records of the Pennsylvania War History Commission, 1915-1920, are included in Record Group 19, Records of the Department of Military Affairs.

Fortunately, among the more important special commissions included are the Capitol Investigation Commission, 1897-1911; the Chestnut Tree Blight Commission, 1911-1914; the Post War Planning Commission, 1943-1947; the Governor's Commission for Modern State Government, 1967-1970; the Abortion Law Commission, 1972; and the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, 1968-1977. All in all, the special commissions have been involved in a wide range of activities, which is revealed by an examination of the records series as arranged and presented in this subject guide.

Additional materials in the Pennsylvania State Archives related to the records of special commissions described in this guide are included in various Manuscript Groups. For example, to be found in Manuscript Group 181 are the Papers of Gov. William A. Stone, 1899-1903. This material consists of general correspondence between Governor Stone, as president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, and D. R. Francis, president of the Universal Exposition Commission in St. Louis, Missouri. In Manuscript Group 171, the Samuel W. Pennypacker Papers, there is general correspondence, 1903-1907, between Governor Pennypacker, as president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, and members of the commission, contractors and other citizens. One letter book, 1903-1905, containing copies of Governor Pennypacker's correspondence with the Executive Office of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, is included in the Pennypacker Papers. In Manuscript Group

159, the John S. Fisher Papers, there are copies of Procedures and Reports of the Capitol Investigation Commission. John S. Fisher, State senator, 1901-1908, and governor of Pennsylvania, 1927-1931, was chairman of this commission. Correspondence relating to records of other special commissions whose records are not to be found in Record Group 25 is listed in the Appendix..

There are also several pieces of correspondence in Record Group 25 between the late Dr. S. K. Stevens, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and officials of two federal commissions, the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission (1958) and the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission (1957-1958). Because these bodies were authorized under federal legislation, the two commissions have not been included in this guide. In addition, the Fort Meigs Memorial Commission is a special commission listed under Record Group 25 which has been omitted from this guide because it was authorized by the State of Ohio. Pennsylvania's participation consisted of an appropriation to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to erect a Pennsylvania memorial.

The records of special commissions described in this guide have been divided by similarity of function into three groups: (1) twenty-four commemorative, monument and exposition commissions, 1858-1971; (2) nine investigative commissions, 1876-1972; (3) other special commissions, including the Highway Planning Commission, 1949-1951; the Johnstown Flood Relief Commission, 1889; the Post War Planning Commission, 1943-1947; and the Pennsylvania State Commission for the Construction of a Public Steamboat Landing at the Port of Erie, 1907-1909. The entries for special commissions placed under their appropriate groups are arranged alphabetically.

During the protracted activities relating to the production of this subject guide many obligations have been incurred, first of all to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and its Executive Director, William J. Wewer, for their approval, and to Harry E. Whipkey, Director of the Bureau of Archives and History, for his encouragement. Roland M. Baumann, Chief, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, has been involved in this project from the beginning. Under his editorial direction, the initial draft, in terms of format and style, was converted into a manuscript for publication. Frank M. Suran, Associate Archivist, provided some timely content suggestions. Angela M. Orsini, Judie Piccolo and Marcia Yost typed the preliminary and final drafts. The aid of John Bodnar, Chief of the Division of History, and of Harold L. Myers, Associate Historian, in handling the printing arrangements is also acknowledged.

Part I

**RECORDS OF COMMEMORATIVE,
MONUMENT AND EXPOSITION
COMMISSIONS, 1858-1977**

Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania

The Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania was created by the General Assembly in July, 1968, for the purpose of planning and implementing the Commonwealth's participation in the two hundredth anniversary of American independence. The bipartisan commission was composed of twenty-five members: the Lieutenant Governor (serving as chairman), the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, five members from the House of Representatives, five members from the Senate and ten persons appointed by Gov. Milton J. Shapp (honorary chairman).

The Bicentennial Commission also had a working administrative staff which operated under the Department of Commerce. Including the executive director, it consisted of twenty members. The staff as well as the programs were funded by appropriations from the General Assembly.

In developing its programs and activities the Bicentennial Commission emphasized historical observance, economic stimulus, and the involvement of people. A principal program of the commission was the popular Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and the Wagon Train Encampment there from July 3 through September 30, 1976. Some other popular State-wide programs included the Visitor in Pennsylvania, the Passport to History, and the Rededication to the Declaration of Independence.

An important responsibility undertaken by the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania was the administration of its grant program to assist local governments and non-profit corporations with funding worthwhile Bicentennial programs and projects throughout the Commonwealth. There were 266 projects funded at a cost of \$8,751,264, with the distribution of these projects encompassing more than ninety percent of Pennsylvania's geographical area.

Records of the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania, 1968-1977

Commission Member Files, 1968-1977. Commission member files include Ad Hoc Bicentennial Committee material (1968); correspondence of Bicentennial Commission members; commission member appointments; budget materials; committee files; correspondence with the Philadelphia Bicentennial Corporation. *Public Relations File, 1971-1977.* The Public Relations File includes advertising proposals, correspondence, contracts and agreements with the commission's two advertising agencies, Spiro and Associates, Inc., handling State-wide programs and general publicity; and Aitken-Kynett Co., Inc., handling the Bicentennial Wagon Train program. *Correspondence File, 1968-1977.* This file includes material relating

to public and private organizations and persons having business with the commission and also the minutes of the Bicentennial Commission, 1968-1977. Included also is the published Final Report of the Bicentennial Commission, 1968-1977. *State File, 1974-1976.* The State File includes information on the Bicentennial activities of other states. *Council of 13 Original States File, 1970-1976.* Includes council meetings, 1970-1976; a subject file contains material relating to committees and programs of the council; general correspondence. *Project File, 1972-1976.* The Project File contains contracts and proposals for Bicentennial projects by Commonwealth counties. Unfunded grant applications are arranged alphabetically and numerically; funded projects are arranged numerically. *County File, 1970-1977.* The County File contains Bicentennial data received from Commonwealth counties. *American Revolution Bicentennial Administration File, 1969-1977.* The ARBA file contains press releases, information, grant applications and general correspondence from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. *Special Records File.* Included in the Special Records File are awards, memorabilia, press kits, slides, newspaper clippings, publications, sound recordings and visitors registers.

Board of Commissioners on Gettysburg Monuments

In June of 1887, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania authorized the governor of Pennsylvania to appoint a commission of five, the Board of Commissioners on Gettysburg Monuments, for the purpose of paying tribute to Pennsylvania's volunteers during the battle of Gettysburg. Their responsibility included the selection of a suitable design and the purchase of material for monuments of granite or bronze to mark the position of each Pennsylvania Command upon the battlefield at Gettysburg. Also, they worked with five persons representing survivors of all Pennsylvania regimental organizations taking part in the engagement, who assisted in the location of battlefield monuments. The monuments to Pennsylvania's units on the Gettysburg battlefield were dedicated on September 12, 1889. Further legislation, enacted in 1901, charged the board with selecting and designing monuments to Generals Meade, Reynolds and Hancock. The General Assembly also appropriated a sum of fifteen hundred dollars to the board to erect a monument to John Burns, civilian participant in the battle of Gettysburg.

Records of the Board of Commissioners on Gettysburg Monuments, 1886-1903

Letter Books, Aug. 3, 1887—Aug. 20, 1903, 3 vols.; contracts, 1886-1892, including designs and affidavits, 2 vols.; contracts and correspondence, 1887-1903, 4 vols.; action on monuments, May 1, 1888—Oct. 28, 1891, 1 vol.; orders for transportation, Aug. 14—Sept. 5, 1889, 13 vols.

Board of World's Fair Managers of Pennsylvania

The Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, Illinois, in 1893, to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. In order to insure the proper representation of Pennsylvania at the exposition, the Pennsylvania General Assembly created in 1891 the Board of World's Fair Managers of Pennsylvania. Consisting of thirty citizens of the Commonwealth, the board was given the legal authority to appoint an executive commissioner to fulfill all necessary executive functions to establish a complete and creditable display of Pennsylvania's interests at the Columbian Exposition. The board, which managed the transportation, arrangement and exhibition of objects sent under State authority to the exposition, terminated its role in 1894.

Records of the Board of World's Fair Managers of Pennsylvania, 1891-1894

Index to Letters: No. 1, Sept. 24, 1891 - Dec. 14, 1893 (A-M) 1 vol.; No. 2, Sept. 14, 1891 - Jan. 19, 1894 (N-Z) 1 vol.; letter press book, Mar. 14 - July 1, 1892, 1 vol; letter press book, Feb. 7-27, 1893, 1 vol.; letter register, Apr. 1, 1892 - Apr. 1, 1893; mail forwarding book [1892-1893], 1 vol.; reference book, No. 1 n.d. (Executive Commissioner's) 1 vol.; visitors registers, May 9 - Oct. 31, 1893, 13 vols.

Camp Curtin Commission

The Camp Curtin Commission was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly on July 25, 1917. This seven-member commission purchased a plot of ground at the corner of Sixth and Woodbine streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which came to be known as Camp Curtin Park. The plans for a park were developed by the Bureau of Municipalities, formerly a part of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Also, under the commission, a monument to Andrew G. Curtin, governor of Pennsylvania (1861-1867), was built in the park to honor the memory of soldiers at Camp Curtin during the Civil War. In 1919, William C. Sproul, governor of Pennsylvania (1919-1923), reappointed the original commission and supported additional appropriations needed to complete the work. The bronze statue of Andrew Gregg Curtin was dedicated on October 19, 1922.

Records of the Camp Curtin Commission, 1922

Publication: *Ceremonies at the Dedication of the Statue of Andrew Gregg Curtin, War Governor of Pennsylvania, On the Site of Camp Curtin. Erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on a part of the Camp Curtin site. Sixth and Woodbine Streets, City of Harrisburg, October 19th, 1922.* 23 pp., 1 vol.

Commission to Supervise the Transfer From the Library and Museum Building to the Cases in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building Of Certain Flags of Pennsylvania Commands

The General Assembly by joint resolution established this commission, which was approved by Gov. John K. Tener on June 5, 1913. The commission was given the responsibility to arrange for and supervise the transfer of the flags of Pennsylvania Commands in the Civil War and the Spanish American War from the State Library and Museum Building in Harrisburg to cases provided in the rotunda of the adjoining State Capitol. The members of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, one member of the State Senate appointed by the President pro tempore, two members of the House appointed by the Speaker, and Governor Tener, serving as chairman, constituted the membership of this commission. To mark the transfer of the flags, appropriate patriotic ceremonies were held in the Capitol park on June 15, 1914.

Records of the Commission to Supervise the Transfer from the Library and Museum Building to the Cases in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building of Certain Flags of Pennsylvania Commands, 1861-1866, 1894-1907, 1913-1915, 1922

Battle flags returned by Pennsylvania regiments, 1861-1865, 1 folder; regiments to be presented with flags, 1861-1865, 1 folder; accounts and correspondence relating to the purchase of regimental colors, 1861-1865, 1 folder; correspondence relating to the return of regimental colors to the Adjutant General's Office, 1866-1907, 7 folders; program material relating to the transfer of Battle Flags, June 15, 1914, 1 folder; roster of men to carry flags, 1914, 1 vol.; general correspondence, 1913-1914, 1922; accounts, 1913-1915; picture of battle flags of the 155th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers as they stand in the flag room, Sept. 1, 1904; pictures, June 15, 1914, 1 folder; flag bearers' badges, 1913-1914, 10 items; newspaper clippings, 1913, 1 folder.

The Cotton States and International Exposition Commission of Pennsylvania

The Cotton States and International Exposition was held in Atlanta, Georgia, during the months of September, October, November and December, 1896. In response to an invitation extended by the cotton states to the legislatures of several northern states to participate in the exposition, the 1895 session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, on May 2, created

by joint resolution the Cotton States and International Exposition of Pennsylvania. The measure was approved by Gov. Daniel H. Hastings. This thirty-two-member commission prepared and entered exhibits at the exposition demonstrating Pennsylvania's progress in manufacturing, mining, agriculture and the arts.

Records of the Cotton States and International Exposition Commission of Pennsylvania, 1895-1896

Visitors Registers, 1895-1896, 2 vols.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle Of Gettysburg Commission

In 1909 the Pennsylvania General Assembly created a nine-member Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Commission to arrange for an appropriate recognition and observance of the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, which took place on July 1-4, 1863. Given the authority to invite the cooperation of the United States Congress and to work with other states for the purpose of agreeing upon the general scope and plans of celebration, a series of four general conferences was held in 1912-1913. At the general conferences it was agreed to hold a great reunion of all Civil War veterans at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-4, 1913. This was the first general reunion of veterans of the Union and Confederate armies, both of which were well represented, and it proved to be very successful.

Records of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Commission, 1909-1914

Minutes of the Fiftieth Anniversary Commission, Sept. 20, 1909-Jan. 20, 1914 (original and copy), 2 vols.; addresses, July 1-4, 1913, 1 vol.; Final Report, Dec. 31, 1913, 1 vol.; Report of the Commissioner of Health, 1 vol.; general correspondence, 1909-1914, 4 vols. (includes indices); participants' registers, 1913, 2 vols.; badges, 1913; cash book, Nov. 17, 1909-May 13, 1913; scrapbooks, 1910-1915, 7 vols.; maps: "Camp for Veterans at the 50th Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg and Vicinity," 1913, "Ground Plan Emergency Hospital, Gettysburg," 1913; *Names of Pennsylvania Veterans Granted Free Transportation to and from Gettysburg, July 1-4, 1914*, 1 vol.

General George Gordon Meade National Statue Commission

The General George Gordon Meade National Statue Commission was the direct descendant of the "Commission for the Erection of a Statue in

Memory of General George Gordon Meade at Washington, D. C." The latter commission was established by the General Assembly in June, 1911. Under the Administrative Code of 1923, the newly organized commission was placed under the administration of the Department of Property and Supplies and reconstituted as the General George Gordon Meade National Statue Commission, which Gov. Gifford Pinchot served as chairman. State Supervisory Architect Julian Millard directed the commission's activity. The memorial to Gen. George Gordon Meade was dedicated on October 19, 1927.

Records of the General George Gordon Meade Statue Commission, 1926-1927

Program of Exercises Attending the Unveiling of the Memorial to the Memory of Major General George Gordon Meade, Washington, D.C., Wednesday, October 19, 1927; general correspondence, 1926-1927, 1 folder.

Independence Celebration Commission

The Pennsylvania State Legislature created the Independence Celebration Commission of Pennsylvania in May, 1921. Given a complement of twenty-five persons, including Gov. William C. Sproul, three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives, the Independence Celebration Commission worked with the United States Congress, the Philadelphia City Council, and the legislatures of the other states toward conducting an international exhibition commemorating the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution, to be celebrated in Philadelphia in 1926. In December, 1922, the Independence Celebration Commission Chairman, Thomas Robbins, and other Independence Celebration Commission members, for political reasons, submitted their resignations to Governor Sproul. In March, 1923, pursuant to a directive of newly elected Gov. Gifford S. Pinchot, the offices of the Commission in the Land Title Building in Philadelphia were closed.

Records of the Independence Celebration Commission, 1922-1923

Minutes of the Independence Celebration Commission's Executive Committee, 1922-1923, 1 folder; general correspondence, 1922-1923, 14 folders; correspondence between the Independence Celebration Commission and other State agencies, 1922-1923, 1 vol.; correspondence with the "Sesquicentennial Association," Philadelphia, 1922-1923, 1 folder; a general file, 1922-1923, includes plans, drawings, and miscellaneous publications relative to the proposed sesquicentennial exhibition site in Philadelphia, 1 folder; scrapbooks, 1922-1923, 2 vols.

Keystone State Commission Of the Pan American Exposition

The Pan American Exposition was held in Buffalo, New York, from May to November, 1901. In response to an invitation from exposition officials, the Pennsylvania General Assembly created in January, 1901, the Keystone State Commission to oversee Pennsylvania's industrial, agricultural and mining interests desiring space at the exposition. Commission membership consisted of Gov. William A. Stone, five representative citizens of the Commonwealth appointed by the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate, five members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore, the Speaker of the House, and seven members of the House appointed by the Speaker. The commission erected an exhibition building on the exposition grounds at Buffalo and provided for the care and maintainence of the building.

Records of the Keystone State Commission of the Pan American Exposition, 1901

Visitor registers, May to Nov., 1901, 5 vols.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition was held at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1904. The commission, which was created by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1903, invited special interests in the Commonwealth, such as manufacturing, commerce and agriculture, to establish trade exhibits with other domestic and foreign exhibitors. Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker served as president of the thirty-two member commission. The commission made all necessary arrangements for a proper display of all of the Commonwealth's exhibits at the exposition and erected an exhibition building for Pennsylvania at the World's Fair Grounds.

Records of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, 1903-1905

Minutes, 1903-1905, 1 vol.; visitor registers, 1904, 3 vols.

Mexican War Monument Commission

The Mexican War Monument Commission, authorized by Act of the General Assembly in 1858, consisted of the Governor, the Adjutant General and fifteen citizens, appointed to contract for and superintend the erection of a monument to the memory of citizens of Pennsylvania who were slain or lost their lives in the war with Mexico, 1847-1848. Six thousand dollars of public funds were appropriated to be spent under the direction and control of the commissioners. To commemorate this event

the commissioners contracted with an individual to carve a stone obelisk monument, which was to be erected on the capitol grounds in Harrisburg.

Records of the Mexican War Monument Commission, 1858-1869

Minutes of the Mexican War Monument Commission, July 1, 1858-Apr. 17, 1869, 1 folder; articles of agreement, July 13, 1867; specifications, May 22, 1867.

Pennsylvania Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield Commission

In 1893, Gen. J. S. Fullerton, chairman of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission, called on the governors of states represented by military units during 1863 in battles at Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Tennessee, to locate the positions of their units on the battlefields. In response, Pennsylvania Gov. Robert E. Pattison appointed on April 30, 1884, a special commission from the survivors of these State units to aid in the work of the above assignment on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The commissioners immediately organized and departed for the battlefield in September. Upon completion of their work of locating and marking the positions of their units, the commissioners reported their findings to newly elected Gov. Daniel H. Hastings. He recommended that the General Assembly enact legislation providing for the erection of monuments to Pennsylvania on the battlefield.

Accepting Governor Hastings' recommendation, the General Assembly in July, 1895, appropriated funds for an executive committee of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield Commission. It was empowered to decide upon the designs, materials and inscriptions for monuments to mark the positions of each Pennsylvania command, and to contract for the construction and erection of the monuments. By January, 1897, the work on the monuments was completed and ceremonies dedicating the monuments took place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, eleven months later in November, 1897.

Records of the Pennsylvania Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield Commission, 1897, 1900, 1901-1903

Publication: *Roster of Applications Received at Adjutant General's Office, Harrisburg, Pa. for Transportation to Chattanooga, Tennessee, under Provision of Act of Assembly, Approved July 22, 1897*. Harrisburg, 1897 (4 copies); record book, 1900-1901, lists name, address and regiment of recipients of the publication, *Pennsylvania at Chickamauga and Chattanooga*, Harrisburg, 1897; notes and correspondence, 1901-1903, of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield Executive Committee (1 folder).

Pennsylvania at Cold Harbor Battlefield Memorial Commission

In 1907, the Pennsylvania General Assembly established a five-member commission for the purpose of commemorating the services of the Pennsylvania troops in the battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, which occurred in June, 1864. The responsibilities of the commission, which was known as the "Pennsylvania at Cold Harbor Battlefield Memorial Commission," included selecting the location, design, material and inscription for one monument and entering into contract for its construction. By April, 1909, the work on the granite monument was completed, and six months later, on October 20, 1909, it was dedicated.

Records of the Pennsylvania at Cold Harbor Battlefield Memorial Commission, 1912

Publication: *Ceremonies at the Dedication of the Monument Erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the National Cemetery at Cold Harbor, Virginia, 1912.* 60 pp., 1 vol. (3 copies).

Pennsylvania Commission to the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition

The South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition was held in Charleston, South Carolina, from December, 1901, to June, 1902. The Pennsylvania General Assembly created in June, 1901, a State commission for the purpose of arranging its participation in the exposition. Gov. William A. Stone served as president of the twenty-member commission. The Pennsylvania commission was responsible for locating adequate space at the exposition grounds and later contracted for the erection of a suitable building.

Records of the Pennsylvania Commission to the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition, 1902

Visitor register, 1902, 1 vol.

Pennsylvania Federal Constitution Commemoration Committee

Gov. George H. Earle appointed the Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration Committee in 1937. This committee made arrangements for an appropriate celebration in June, 1938, of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution.

The Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration Committee totaled

1792 members, representing Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties. The Commonwealth was divided into six regions, each region being given an honorary chairman, a general chairman, and an executive committee chairman. County chairmen of the region acted as the executive committee. On July 26, 1937, the Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration committee opened its headquarters in the Pennsylvania Building at Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, in Philadelphia.

Records of Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration Committee, 1935-38

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration Committee, August 12, 1937—June 7, 1938; report of executive committee meeting, November 5, 1937; Activities Report, Pennsylvania Constitution Commemoration Committee, July 21, 1938, 44 pp., 1 vol.; publicity activities of the Committee from July, 1937 to July 1938, 1 folder; general correspondence, 1935-1938, includes information relating to county committees, regional participation, fraternal organizations, Nationalities Committee and Woman's Committee material, 11 boxes; historical data file, 1937-1938, includes research notes, articles and sketches, 2 folders; *The History of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Constitution Committee*, typed MS, 187 pp., 1 vol.; *Pennsylvania's Part in the Constitution of the United States, 1937*, published, 15 pp., 1 vol.; *General Plan for State Wide Commemoration of Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the Framing, Ratification and Establishment of the Constitution of the United States by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*. Prepared and submitted by Pennsylvania Historical Commission, May 20, 1937, 1 folder; press releases, July 31, 1937—June 21, 1938, 2 folders; publicity, 1936—1938, including general correspondence, office memoranda, photographs, 17 folders; news clippings, May 18—December 14, 1937, 2 vols.; accounts, 1937-1938, 6 folders.

Pennsylvania State World's Fair Commission

The Pennsylvania State World's Fair Commission, created by Act of July 2, 1937, was composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor. It was the duty of this commission to organize Pennsylvania's participation in the World's Fair of 1939 held in New York City, by providing exhibits that displayed the agricultural, industrial, coal mining, scientific, scenic and historical interests of the Commonwealth. The State World's Fair Commission also cooperated with State government agencies and with private interests in arranging exhibits. Through the Department of Property and Supplies, it also obtained space for exhibits by lease and by the erection of a proper building.

Records of the Pennsylvania State World's Fair Commission, 1938-1941

Minutes of the State World's Fair Commission, 1938-1940; reports, 1939-1940, 1 folder; general correspondence, 1938-1941, 1 folder; a general file, 1938-1941, includes agreements, allocations, display items, drawings, financial statements, property releases, publicity and specifications.

Pennsylvania Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission

The Pennsylvania Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission, appointed by Gov. George H. Earle, as authorized by an Act of the General Assembly, July 2, 1937, was established to plan and carry out during 1938, an appropriate program in Pennsylvania commemorating the three-hundredth anniversary of the first Swedish settlements on Tinicum Island in the Delaware River. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission cooperated with the United States Delaware Valley Tercentenary Commission, the national commissions of Finland and Sweden, the tercentenary commissions of Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, and other local committees or commissions.

During the early months of 1938, the Commission conducted an intensive campaign among the school children of Pennsylvania, explaining to them the significance of the three-hundredth anniversary celebration. To begin formal celebration of the anniversary, the commission fostered Forefather's Day on April 8, 1938. The climax of the tercentenary celebration occurred in June, 1938, when the Crown Prince and Princess of Sweden visited Philadelphia.

Records of The Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission, 1935-1938

Minutes of a Meeting to Organize A General Tercentenary Committee, February 23, 1935, published 23 pp.; minutes of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission, November 15, 1937—June 6, 1938, 1 folder; minutes of the Womans' Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Three Hundredth Anniversary Commission, February 23—June 14, 1938, 1 folder; general correspondence, 1936-38, 67 folders; speeches, January 4, 1937—June 8, 1938, 1 folder; radio scripts for Forefather's Day, April 8, 1938, 1 folder; historical data, 1937-1938, n.d. (includes research notes and bibliographical material on various participants), 5 folders; Governor Earle's visit to Sweden, November 28—December 7, 1937 (articles in the Swedish and Swedish-American Press), 1 folder; bibliography and book orders, 1937-1938, 1 folder; pamphlets, booklets, etc., 1937-1938, 1 folder; *Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Establishment of Pennsylvania, 1638-1938*, typed MS,

99 pp., 1 folder; publicity, 1937-1939, including mailing lists, photographs, plates for printing, 4 folders; news clippings, 1937-1939, 2 vols.; recordings; banquet, WCAU Philadelphia (WPA Program No. 37), 3 folders; accounts, 1937-1939, 8 folders.

Pennsylvania War History Commission

In 1917, the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense appointed individuals to serve on the Pennsylvania War History Commission. Composed of fourteen members, this commission divided its membership into four general committees to handle various aspects of the war's history. The primary responsibility of this official body was to keep a permanent record of the military, economic and civil participation of Pennsylvania in World War I. In particular, these records were intended to provide a picture of Pennsylvania's involvement in the war. In September of 1918, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania accepted an offer made by the War History Commission to make their society the repository of the materials. The War History Commission was disbanded in 1921 upon completion of its work and the collection became the property of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, located at 1300 Locust Street in Philadelphia. The manner in which the commission's records came into custody of the State Archives is unclear. Most probably, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania transferred this file to the Department of Military Affairs, where it remained until transferred to the State Archives (along with other military records) in the early 1960's.

Records of the Pennsylvania War History Commission, 1915-1920

General File (unprocessed) Records of the 1st to 7th, 26th to 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th to 40th, 76th to 83rd, 85th, and 88th to 93rd Divisions. Included in the division level records are intelligence reports, operations reports, training memoranda, journals of operations, filed orders, citations, brief divisional histories, extracts from General Pershing's communiques, strength accounting reports, casualty lists, replacement lists, officers rosters, field orders, and letters of individual soldiers. Records of units below the division level include operations reports, intelligence reports, monthly rosters of field and staff units, Headquarters Company line and support units, daily reports, returns and casualties. Represented are the 107th to 109th Field Arty. Btrys., 107th to 109th Machine Gun Btn., 103rd Trench Mortar Btry., 55th, 56th, 109th, 111th, 112th, Inftry., 103rd Supply Train, 103rd Sanitary Train, the 103rd Field Signal Btn. and the 103rd Ammo Train unit. There are also records of naval service including Registers of Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps., Jan. 1, 1916; annual reports of the Surgeon General,

U.S.N. 1916; Naval Militia Register, Jan. 1, 1916; Mobilization, State Naval Militia, 1917; Lists of Army Transports and war letters of individual seamen, 1916-1919.

Sesqui-Centennial Commission Of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

In April, 1925, the Pennsylvania Legislature established the Pennsylvania Sesqui-Centennial Commission of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of establishing an appropriate exhibit for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the national celebration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of American Independence held in Philadelphia, May through November, 1926. Gov. Gifford Pinchot appointed a commission of three persons, designating a chairman, a secretary and an official hostess. (The governor served as a member *ex officio*.) The Independence Sesqui-Centennial Commission erected an exhibition building at Broad Street and Pattison Avenue in Philadelphia and prepared exhibits portraying the history, natural resources and industries of Pennsylvania.

One prominent exhibit was the Violet Oakley mural paintings, which were painted for the Supreme Court Room in the State Capitol. Included also in this exhibit were reproductions of Violet Oakley's mural paintings in the governor's reception room and in the Senate chamber of the Capitol.

Records of the Sesqui-Centennial Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1926-1927

General correspondence, Jan.-Dec., 1926, of the Commission's Historical Exhibits Committee, 3 folders; publication: *Report of the Sesqui-Centennial Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, January 14, 1927*. 62 pp., 1 vol.

State Board of Centennial Managers

In 1875, under authorization of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, Gov. John Hartranft appointed a State Board of Centennial Managers to organize a centennial celebration throughout Pennsylvania. Concerned that Pennsylvania be properly and fully represented during the International Exhibition of 1876, the State Board of Centennial Managers supervised all of the details and arrangements involved in the representation of the products, industries and resources of the Commonwealth, in accordance with regulations adopted by the United States Centennial Commission. A permanent advisory committee of the State Board of Centennial Managers, composed of the governor, state treasurer and the secretary of the Commonwealth, was also provided for by special act of the leg-

islature. This advisory committee, which appointed its own secretary, had the right to participate in all deliberations of the State Board of Centennial Managers.

Records of the State Board of Centennial Managers, 1876-1878

Minute Books, 1876-1878, 2 vols; accounts, 1876-1877, 1 vol.; visitor registers, 1876, 2 vols.

Wayne Monument Commission

In 1905, the General Assembly passed an act providing for the erection of an equestrian statue of Gen. Anthony Wayne at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to honor him for rendering outstanding military and civil services to Pennsylvania and to the nation during the Revolutionary War. Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker appointed three persons as a commission to plan and direct the work. The unveiling of the bronze statue took place on June 20, 1908.

Records of the Wayne Monument Commission, 1905-1908

Journal of the Wayne Monument Commission, 1905-1908, records all commission activities: includes the commission minutes, July 15, 1905—Sept. 17, 1908; daily entries recording commissioners' activities and correspondence; listings of sculptors; specifications and contracts.

William Penn Landing Commission

The William Penn Landing Commission, being authorized by joint resolution of the General Assembly in 1929, consisted of five persons appointed by Gov. John S. Fisher. It was the commission's duty to investigate the propriety of holding a celebration during 1932, which would mark the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the landing of William Penn.

In its report to newly elected Gov. Gifford Pinchot in January, 1931, the commission recommended that an appropriate marker be erected at Deal, England, to mark the spot from which William Penn sailed in October, 1682. It further recommended that a statue or other suitable memorial be built in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, to be dedicated with suitable ceremonies and that the City of Chester be recognized because it was the first landing place of William Penn in Pennsylvania. To finance the celebration, the commission recommended an appropriation of \$250,000.

In 1932, the William Penn Commemoration Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission was placed in charge of public observances commemorating Penn's landing. A major public observance was held in Convention Hall, West Philadelphia, on October 24, 1932. On October 28, 1932, two bronze tablets commemorating William Penn were unveiled in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Records of the William Penn Landing Commission 1931-1933

Minutes, Jan 2, 1931; general correspondence, July 3, 1929—Nov. 12, 1933, and miscellaneous items.

William Penn Tercentenary Committee

The William Penn Tercentenary Committee was appointed by Gov. Edward Martin on March 21, 1944, for the purpose of commemorating the three hundredth anniversary of William Penn's birth. On April 17, 1944, the William Penn Tercentenary Committee opened an office at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which placed its facilities at the disposal of the committee.

The committee contacted educational institutions, publications, and newspapers, asking for their cooperation in observance of the tercentenary. It also encouraged schools, civic and fraternal groups throughout the Commonwealth to hold commemorative programs. As a result of the committee's work, commemorations were held in at least seventeen other states. The commemorative events culminated with a public observance held at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia on the evening of October 24. Gov. Edward Martin presided during the ceremonies.

Records of the William Penn Tercentenary Committee, 1944-1945

General correspondence, 1944-1945, 6 folders; general file, 1944, scrapbook No. 1, April 17—Nov. 10, 1944; publication: *Remember William Penn 1644-1944*. Compiled by the William Penn Tercentenary Committee. Second edition, Harrisburg, 1945.

Part 2
RECORDS OF INVESTIGATING
COMMISSIONS, 1876-1972

Capitol Investigation Commission

The original State capitol in Harrisburg, which was erected in 1819, burned in 1897. During the first years of the twentieth century a new Capitol was built. The alleged extravagance in the purchase of furnishings, which became a matter of scandal in the public press, led to the establishment of the Capitol Investigation Commission. Being a joint committee of seven members of the State legislature, it was directed to hold public hearings, summon witnesses, issue subpoenas and to produce evidence.

At the Capitol Investigation Commission organizational meeting held on February 4, 1907, John S. Fisher was elected as its permanent chairman. Forty-eight additional public hearings were held in the Senate caucus room between March 1 and June 25, 1907. The taking of testimony involved the examination of one hundred eighty-eight witnesses. Although the commission issued subpoenas, architect Joseph M. Huston and contractor John H. Sanderson could not be found in order to serve them.

In reporting its inquiry work to the legislature in 1909, the Capitol Investigation Commission explained that "in so far as within its power lay, it had exhausted all lines of inquiry . . . considering the work that it accomplished, the substantial results of the investigation had been attained and its duty fully and fairly discharged under directions given it by the Legislature."

Records of the Capitol Investigation Commission, 1897-1911

Proceedings, 1907: February 4—March 28, 1907, April 1-30, 1907 (executive session, April 26, 1907), May 1-2, 29-31 (executive session, June 13, 1907), June 14-26, 1907, June 26—August 5, 1907 (executive session, June 26-27, 1907), 5 boxes; reports, 1907: include *Report of the Capitol Investigation Commission, August, 1907*, MS, 272 pp.; *Report of the Attorney General in re Capitol Investigation*, published 379 pp., 1 vol.; *The Audit Company of New York, June 3, 1907*, Part I, 1 box; *The Audit Company of New York*, Parts II-IV, 1 box; exhibits, 1897-1917, include "Schedule of Metallic Furniture," 1907, Auditor General's File, 1902-1907, general exhibits, 1897-1907, 4 boxes; general correspondence, 1907-1911, folders A-H, 1 box; folders I-Z (State agencies, 1907), 1 box; statement, freight received at Harrisburg, 1906; plans, blueprints and photographs, 1 box; scrapbook items, 1903-1904, 1 box.

The Commission for the Investigation And Control of the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease in Pennsylvania

During the early decades of the Twentieth Century, most native American chestnut trees were being destroyed by a fungus called the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease. In response to this unexpected ravage, the General Assembly on June 14, 1911, established the Chestnut Tree Blight Commission to deal with the problem. Holding its first meeting on July 5, 1911, the commission organized by electing a chairman and a secretary, and it appointed an executive officer who took active charge of the work. The commission held offices in the Morris Building, Philadelphia, which were furnished at the expense of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Chestnut Tree Blight Commission was charged to adopt the most efficient and practical means for the prevention, control and eradication of the disease. Being given broad powers, the commission conducted scientific investigations into the nature and causes of the blight, and searched for ways to prevent its introduction, continuance and spread. The commission began its work by sending a large force of experts into the field and conducting comprehensive laboratory experiments and investigations. In order that owners could learn more about the nature and characteristics of the disease, quarantines in nursery stock were rigidly enforced and educational programs were extended throughout the State.

Unable to achieve its objective by the end of 1913, the commission was terminated when the legislature failed to appropriate the necessary funds.

Records of the Commission for the Investigation and Control of the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease in Pennsylvania, 1911-1914

Minutes of meetings of the Chestnut Tree Blight Commission, July 5, 1911—April 10, 1914, 5 folders; proceedings, *Conference Called by the Governor of Pennsylvania to Consider Ways and Means for Preventing the Spread of the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease*, Feb. 20 and 21, 1912, 1 vol. typed MS, 325 pp.; reports of the commission, 1912-1913, include: *Report of the Commission for the Investigation and Control of the Chestnut Tree Blight Disease in Pennsylvania, July 15, 1912*, 1 vol.; District Reports (districts 1-7), 1912-1913, 1 folder; *Summary of Work in Western District, Oct. 3, 1912 to June 30, 1913*, includes "Tentative Plan of Work for 1913 and 1914 in the Western District," and "Proposed General Instructions to Field Men in the Western District for 1913-1914," 1 folder; *Outline for Report on Counties, 1912-13* (instructions for preparing county reports), 1 folder; county reports (Armstrong-Warren Counties), 1912-1913, 1 folder; special studies conducted by staff members of the commission, including

listings of personnel employed by the commission, 1912-1913, 1 folder; general correspondence, 1911-1914, 1 folder; accounts, 1911-1914, including "Details of Expenditures," Sept. 16, 1911 - Dec. 15, 1912, 1 vol.; cash book, Aug. 22, 1911 - Dec. 18, 1913, 1 vol.; financial statements, Aug. 1911 - Dec. 1913, 8 folders; bank books, Aug. 22, 1911 - Aug. 19, 1912 (commission for investigation), 1 vol.; June 13 - Sept. 16, 1912 (M. A. Carleton), 1 vol.; June 22 - Aug. 15, 1913, 1 vol.; bank statements and cancelled checks, May, 1912 - Feb., 1914; pictures, Nos. 1-774, 6 boxes.

Commission to Devise a Plan For the Segregation, Care and Treatment Of the Feeble-Minded And Epileptic Persons in Pennsylvania

In June, 1911, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania created the Commission to Devise a Plan for the Segregation, Care and Treatment of Feeble-Minded and Epileptic Persons of Pennsylvania. Membership in this commission included the Pennsylvania Commissioner of Health, Samuel G. Dixon, M.D., who served as commission president, the Director of Health and Charities of Philadelphia, and members of the Lunacy Committee of the Board of Public Charities. It was this commission's duty to determine the number and status of feeble-minded and epileptic persons (and their children) living in Pennsylvania, and to report to the legislature a plan for their care and treatment. To accomplish its purposes, the commission was empowered to send for persons and papers, examine witnesses under oath, and to employ such skilled assistance as deemed necessary.

Records of the Commission to Devise a Plan for the Segregation, Care and Treatment of the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic Persons in Pennsylvania, 1911-1915

Letter Press Book, 1911-1915, 1 vol.

Governor's Commission On Modern State Government

In August, 1967, Gov. Raymond P. Shafer appointed twenty-three leaders from the business and academic communities and State and federal governments to form the Governor's Commission on Modern State Government. Popularly known as the "Little Hoover Committee," the commission studied all State government operations for the purpose of making recommendations to increase efficiency and economies in State government. Completing its task in 1969, the commission submitted its final report to Governor Shafer in January, 1970.

Governor's Commission on Modern State Government, 1967-1969

Minutes of the Governor's Commission on Modern State Government, 1967-1969; reports, 1969, 1 folder; research notes, 1968-1969; general correspondence, 1967-1969; administrative file, 1967-1969; pictures, 1967-1969, 5 boxes.

**Joint Legislative Committee on Revision
Of the Corporation and Revenue Laws
Of the Commonwealth**

By joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, approved on May 13, 1909, the President pro-tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House were directed respectively, to appoint three senators and three representatives to constitute a joint committee for the purpose of examining Pennsylvania's laws relating to corporations and to revenue. The committee was further required to report to the next legislature the changes in the law that it considered necessary, and to include in its report a draft of an Act or Acts of Assembly to accomplish the recommended changes. In addition to powers of subpoena, the committee had the power to elect its own chairman and to employ such officers and employees needed to perform its duties. In July, 1910, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Revision of Corporation and Revenue Laws of the Commonwealth submitted its final report to the Governor.

Records of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Revision of Corporation and Revenue Laws of the Commonwealth, 1909-1910

Report to the Governor and Proceedings to July 1st., 1910, of the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Consider and Report Upon a Revision of the Corporation and Revenue Laws of the Commonwealth at Public Meetings in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, Williamsport and Scranton, Pennsylvania, typed MS, 111 pp., 1 vol.

**Commission to Locate the Site
Of the Frontier Forts in Pennsylvania**

The General Assembly on May 23, 1893, passed legislation authorizing Gov. Robert E. Pattison to appoint five persons to inquire, investigate and report to the 111th legislative session the advisability of erecting suitable tablets marking the various forts erected in defense against Indians by the settlers of the Commonwealth prior to 1793. Convening in Harrisburg, the commission nominated a chairman, and began to arrange a work program

as directed by law. In view of administrative efficiency, the commission decided to divide the State into five areas where the frontier forts were erected, one division assigned to each member of the commission. Each member of the commission visited all of the localities in person and prepared reports to the Governor at the opening session of the legislature of 1895. The Senate, by concurrent resolution, approved on January 23, 1895, directed that the State Printer, Clarence M. Busch, print under the supervision of the State librarian five thousand copies of the report of the Commission to locate the Site of the Frontier Forts in Pennsylvania.

Records of the Commission to Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts in Pennsylvania, 1896

Pictures, maps, illustrative material (213 items) to *Report of the Commission to Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania*, 2 vols. Harrisburg, 1896; Montgomery, Thomas Lynch, ed., *Report of the Commission . . .* 2 vols. 2d ed. Harrisburg, 1916; see also: Hunter, William A., *Forts on the Pennsylvania Frontier, 1753-1758*. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1960.

Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission

Gov. Milton J. Shapp announced on January 20, 1972, the establishment of the Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission. The commission's twenty-three female members were selected from hundreds of women who had volunteered to serve or who had been recommended to the Governor by concerned individuals and organizations. The task assigned to this commission was to study Pennsylvania's abortion laws and to make recommendations for appropriate changes or revisions, if needed. The commission, which was constituted to balance as best as possible the opposing views on abortion legislation, had women on it representing all parts of the Commonwealth. In particular the members reflected the economic, ethnic, religious and professional diversity of Pennsylvania. Governor Shapp appointed Mary T. Stack of Philadelphia as staff director of the commission.

Records of the Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission, 1972

Report of the Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission, June 5, 1972, typed 1 vol.; transcripts, statements, testimony (including working papers, statements and correspondence relating to speakers) of public hearings held in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie from February to April, 1972, 3 cartons; a reference file, 1972, includes handbooks, brochures and pamphlets, 1 carton.

Pennsylvania State Forestry Commission

By joint resolution the Pennsylvania General Assembly created the State Forestry Commission, which was approved by Gov. James A. Beaver on April 28, 1887. Consisting of five members, it was given a mandate to investigate the rapid depletion of State timberlands and to report its findings and recommendations to the 1889 session of the legislature. Upon completing its task during the closing months of 1888, the State Forestry Commission submitted its final report to the General Assembly in January, 1889.

Records of the State Forestry Commission, 1888-1889

Minutes of the State Forestry Commission, April 20, 1888—January 16, 1889, 1 folder; Final Report of the Commission to the General Assembly with proposed Legislation to establish a permanent Forest Commission, 1889, 1 folder; County Commissioner's Reports (statistics) to the State Forestry Commission, 1888, Allegheny to Union counties, 1 folder; general correspondence, May-December, 1888, 1 folder.

The State Municipal Commission

In his annual message to the legislature, January 4, 1876, Gov. John Hartranft recommended the establishment of a State Municipal Commission to examine legislation relating to Pennsylvania's municipalities. Calling for the attention of the legislature to the abuses existing within the municipal system, the Governor emphasized the adoption of a uniform code for the government of Commonwealth cities; the directive also called for the repeal of all legislation referring to municipalities and for the end of perennial alteration.

In response to the Governor's call the General Assembly created the State Municipal Commission on May 5, 1876, and authorized Governor Hartranft to appoint a commission of not more than eleven persons to devise a plan for the government of cities and to report its recommendations to the 101st session of the legislature. Empowered to review the books and papers of any department of the cities in the Commonwealth, the Commissioners also were directed to examine under oath any person who was involved in the affairs of cities, to issue subpoenas, and to compel the attendance of witnesses. As late as January, 1881, Gov. Henry Martyn Hoyt, in his biennial message to the legislature reported that no action had been taken on the State Municipal Commission's Report of 1876-1877.

Records of the State Municipal Commission, 1876-1877

Journal (Minutes) of the State Municipal Commission and its Committees, Dec. 19, 1876 — Dec. 15, 1877 (Index), 1 vol.

Part 3

**RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIAL
COMMISSIONS, 1889, 1907-1951**

Highway Planning Commission

In May, 1949, the General Assembly created a commission to develop a long-range highway program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to make recommendations to the governor. Mr. Welles H. Gray of the Pennsylvania Economy League was elected chairman of this eleven-member commission. In carrying out its mandate, the commission classified roads and streets according to the character and volume of traffic carried, inventoried road conditions and improvement needs, and analyzed the financial and administrative affairs of Pennsylvania's road networks. Gov. James H. Duff received these studies with recommendations in November, 1950.

Records of the Highway Planning Commission, 1949-1951

Minutes and agenda of the Highway Planning Commission, Sept. 14, 1949 - Oct. 17, 1950, 5 folders; *Pennsylvania Highways Today and Tomorrow, Report of the Highway Planning Commission, to the Governor and General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, November 1, 1950*, published, 167 pp., Appendices I-IV, 1 vol., includes press release summarizing report, Jan. 11, 1951, and attached *Highway Planning Commission Summary of Report*, 23 pp.; *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Highway Planning Commission, Views Submitted in Advance of Hearing*, typed 46 pp., 1 vol.

Johnstown Flood Relief Commission

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania created the Johnstown Flood Relief Commission on June 12, 1889, to act as a vehicle for the distribution of relief funds received by Gov. James A. Beaver. The commission, consisting of ten members representing relief committees throughout Pennsylvania, surveyed the entire flooded district. As the plans of the commission became known, funds from other general committees, and many local committees in all parts of the country, were placed in the commission's hands for distribution.

Records of the Johnstown Flood Relief Commission, 1890

Publication: *Report of the Secretary of the Flood Relief Commission Appointed to Distribute the Funds Contributed for the Relief of Sufferers in Pennsylvania, by the Flood of May 31, and June 1, 1889*, 138 pp.

Pennsylvania Post War Planning Commission

The Pennsylvania General Assembly created the Post War Planning Commission by act approved by Gov. Edward Martin on April 28, 1943.

Consisting of ten members, the commission represented the industrial, labor, agricultural and civic life of the Commonwealth. It was given general responsibility to develop plans and recommend measures to offset potential post-war mass unemployment. Specifically, it established committees to deal with the problems of industry, employment, housing, conservation, agriculture, education, fiscal and tax policy. In June, 1947, the General Assembly, by repeal of the act creating it, abolished the Post War Planning Commission.

Records of the Post War Planning Commission, 1943-1947

Notebook material documenting the origins, pertinent legislation, structure and functions of the Post War Planning Commission, 2 folders; minutes and agenda of the Post War Planning Commission, July 20, 1944—Oct. 22, 1946; *Interim Report of the Pennsylvania Post-War Planning Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April, 1943—August, 1946*, typed, 44 pp.; Recommendations to the Governor, Jan., 1945—May, 1947, 5 folders; reports of special committees, 1943-1947, 14 folders; general correspondence, 1943-1947 (the alphabetical file between "T" and "Z" inclusive is missing), 8 boxes.

Pennsylvania State Commission For the Construction of a Public Steamboat Landing at the Port of Erie

A commission for the improvement of the Port of Erie was authorized by Act of the General Assembly on June 13, 1907. This commission, consisting of five persons, was given overall responsibility, as provided by the law, to build and construct a public steamboat landing or wharf. The legislature provided an appropriation of \$150,000 for this purpose. The commission awarded a contract in the amount of \$127,000 for the construction of the dock. The public dock, located at the foot of State Street in Erie, was completed on June 24, 1909, and turned over to the City of Erie.

Records of the Pennsylvania State Commission for the Construction of a Public Steamboat Landing at the Port of Erie, 1907-1909

Minutes, August 17, 1907—July 30, 1909, 2 vols.; general correspondence, 1907-1909; *Advertisement, Information for Bidders, Proposal, Specifications, Contract and Bond for the Erection of Shelter House over Extension of State Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, 1908*, publication, 21 pp.; *Advertisement, Information for Bidders, Proposal, Specifications, Contract and Bond for the Extension of State Street to the United States Harbor Line, Erie, Pennsylvania, 1908*, publication, 32 pp.; blueprint, "Shelter House for Pier," September 21, 1908, T. C. Franie, Enger.

APPENDIX

Records of other Pennsylvania monument and battlefield commissions deposited in the Pennsylvania State Archives are located in Manuscript Groups 159 and 171, and in Record Group 20.

A. Manuscript Group 159

John S. Fisher Papers

Boise Penrose Statue Executive Committee. Correspondence, 1927-1930, 10 folders.

B. Manuscript Group 171

Samuel W. Pennypacker Papers

Andersonville Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1903-1905, 1 folder.

Antietam Battlefield Commission. Correspondence, 1903-1906, 1 folder.
Commission to Erect a Monument at Hanover, York County, Pa. Correspondence, 1903-1905, 1 folder.

Commission for the Erection of the Monument at Middle Spring, Pa. Correspondence, 1903-1905, 1 folder.

Fredericksburg Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1905-1906, 1 folder.

Germantown Battlefield Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1903-1906, 1 folder.

Hanover Battlefield Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1903-1905, 1 folder.

M. S. Quay Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1905-1906, 3 folders.

Pennsylvania Shiloh Battlefield Commission. Correspondence, 1902-1903, 1 folder.

The Vicksburg Battlefield Commission. Correspondence, 1903-1906, 1 folder.

C. Record Group 20

Records of the Department of Property and Supplies

Boise Penrose Statue Executive Committee. Correspondence, 1927-1930, 1 folder.

Robert Morris Monument Commission. Correspondence, 1923-1926, 1 folder.



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